

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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7050th AISW (USAFE)	52A-E-5522A					

I. PREAMBLE:

MAGADAN
SOURCE was interned in PW Camp #3/2 located in the Greater Area of the KOLYMA River (approximate coordinates 6157N-14717E) from Jan 49 to Jun 53 and worked as a joiner repairing doors, window frames and floors within the camp in the MVD billets and made wooden boxes within the gold processing plant. He was closely guarded and entered only a few times and for short periods the gold washing and processing shop which enabled him to observe the equipment, besides he lacked technical knowledge and could not describe the processing. Info contained in this report is based on SOURCE's own observations unless otherwise stated.

II. POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE GREATER AREA OF THE KOLYMA RIVER. Ref is made to Incl 1, this Report, an Overlay of AAF WAC #123 of TAS-KYSTABYT RANGE, self explanatory.

SOURCE heard from Russian convicts that about 40 km north of the gold processing plant was a small village KULU, inhabited by families of former convicts who were kept under strict military control but outside of convict camps. About 30 km SSE of gold processing plant was a combustion power plant. SOURCE heard from a few Russian convicts of his camp that this power plant was called "AVTOBAZA" (Auto Base) and supplied the gold processing plant and the nearby gold mines with high tension electric power. SOURCE observed a high tension line consisting of 10 to 12 m high wooden poles, spaced 40 m, with three about 2 cm thick cables and one ground connection which led from south into the gold processing plant area. SOURCE observed this power installation twice while passing in a truck from and to MAGADAN but could not give details on number or dimensions of bldgs because it was in the late afternoon and it was dark. However, he did not observe any smokestack or tanks located within the area. Combustion power plant was surrounded by a wood fence of unknown height with two military guards stationed at the gate.

The road which led from MAGADAN to the gold processing plant had numerous curves due to mountainous terrain. In fair condition mostly rolled gravel, but in some sections unimproved, about 4.5 to 5 m wide without any drainage system, dangerous when slippery due to deep ravines, without any security railings along outside curve sections. This road led through completely desert area inbetween mountain ridges which started about 25 km north of MAGADAN along both sides of the road. SOURCE was told by the Russian driver of the truck who brought PWs from MAGADAN to their working place and PW camp at the gold processing plant, that there were 440 km between the two places. On his way back from the PW camp to MAGADAN he could observe huge valleys crossed by numerous rivers and mountain brooks. He was told by one of his fellow PWs that these valleys were rich with gold mines.

About 10 km north of the town MAGADAN, SOURCE observed, while passing by in a truck, an airfield of which he could neither give the approximate dimensions nor give details on bldgs or surface of airfield, however, he observed an unknown number of aircraft of unknown type, landing and taking off from this airfield. Aircraft were landing from western direction and taking off southward, in Jun 53. SOURCE heard from Russian convicts that these aircraft were transporting gold to VLADIVOSTOK (4305N-13157E) and unknown factories in the Urals. Inasmuch SOURCE was able to identify those aircraft, they were single and twin engined. SOURCE was only twice in the city of MAGADAN when he came by ship from VLADIVOSTOK and when he was on his way to be repatriated. He heard from fellow PWs that this town had about 20,000 inhabitants mostly former convicts released from camps but under a strict military supervision. He also heard from the same fellow PWs that this city had numerous gold processing plants and other unidentified industry. He heard from a few Baltic convicts interned in his camp that this region was only for political convicts with numerous convict camps and SCHWEIGELAGER (Silent Camps). Convicts interned in the latter camps were forbidden to receive or write letters to any of their relatives or to have any contact with the outside world. 75% of them were sentenced for the rest of their lives to forced labor, the rest to 25 years.

Ref is made to Incl 2, this Report, a Memory Sketch of Gold Processing Plant in the Greater Area of the KOLYMA River, self explanatory.

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SOURCE heard from Russian convicts that about 7 km SW of gold processing plant was a gold mine by the name of "PRIISK MATROSSOFF" which had an output of 30 kg gold in 24 hours. Gold ore was transported to the processing plant by means of a rope bucket conveyor installed on 7 to 8 m high wooden beams, spaced 30 m. Buckets had a 0.25 ton cap each and were spaced 10 m. Buckets ran on twin metal wheels on a 4 cm thick metal rope. Conveyor was electrically operated and was continuously in operation during 24 hours. PW Camp #3/2 was located at the eastern slope of a mountain ridge with a height of about 600 m. It was also a so-called SCHWEIGELAGER. The majority of convicts were Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians. There were also a few Ukrainians from Southern Galicia, Hungarians, Japanese, Germans and several South-Koreans. Total number of convicts in Jun 53 were 450 men. All of them were sentenced to 25 years of forced labor by paragraph 58 (war crimes) and crimes against humanity. All of them worked within an area of 20 km on road constr, in gold mines or in the gold processing plant. Camp was of non-permanent nature, surrounded by a double 3 m high barbed wire fence with four 4 m high wooden guard towers with one military sentry on top who had a telephone connection to other towers and to MVD headquarters. SOURCE was released in Jun 53 with two other Hungarians and one Japanese. Nobody told him he was to be repatriated or released. They were ordered to get into a truck and were brought to MAGADAN from where they went to VLADIVOSTOK by ship. There they were kept one day in a prison and then shipped by train to MOSKVA (5545N-3735E) where they were kept in LUBIANKA prison for another three days. The last day before repatriation a Soviet first lieutenant came to them and announced they were released and could go home. This was the first time after three weeks after they had left their camp that they heard what was going to happen to them. SOURCE stated that in Jun 51 all convicts had to sign a statement that in case any internees would be killed by another, the murderer would be sentenced to death. SOURCE heard from Russian convicts that starting in Feb 52 Russian convict camps were partly eliminating their BLATNOYS (Criminals) sentencing them either to death or transferring them to camps where only criminals were interned. From Feb 53 all internees received a total amount of 150 rubels for their work which was paid out every five or six weeks. For this money they could buy within the camp in a camp canteen: bread, fish and makhorka (Russian tobacco). 100 m NE of SOURCE's camp were two wooden bldgs for 100 or 150 MVD guards belonging to camp and gold processing plant security system. Both were single-storied, 15x8x4 m, each built of 50 cm thick beams, stuccoed on the interior of the bldg, hard-wood floors and an unknown number of 1.5x1.2 m windows located at the western and eastern section of the houses. Bldgs had pitched shingle roofs and were spaced 20 m. Each house had two entrances one at the northern and the other at the southern section of the bldg. The road which connected the Camp #3/2 to gold processing plant, was constructed in 1952. It was a 5 m wide rolled gravel road ditched along both sides, 2.5 km long in fair condition. The name of gold processing plant was "PRIISK BERIA". Located at the western mountain slope of an 800 to 1,000 m high ridge. Area covered about 600x150 m and consisted of two wooden bldgs. The northern bldg was a single-storied wooden constr, 30x12x5 m, with gable shingled roof, without basement, numerous 2x1.5 m windows along the western and eastern section and one entrance at the south and one at the northern side. SOURCE never entered it, but heard from Russian convicts that it contained a laboratory for testing of gold qualities. The main processing shop was located about 50 m south of laboratory and was a two-storied wooden structure, 50x20x8 m with gabled sheet metal roof. Numerous 3x2.5 m windows were on its western and eastern section and an unknown number of doors, 2x2.5 m. SOURCE never entered it, heard from Russian convicts that it contained unknown type of crushing mills and crushing machines and jolting devices for gold ore processing. Details unknown. He also heard that most of shop's equipment was of US origin, however, he stated that Russian convicts who could not read Latin letters might have confused German names with English. Plant worked three eight-hour shifts and employed about 300 Russian

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convicts in each shift. The processed gold powder was shipped out in 50x40x30 cm wooden boxes which were fabricated in the camp's carpenter shop by German convicts, about ten to 15 per day by each man. Boards and nails were received from MAGADAN by trucks every second day. Carpenter shop had ten or 15 joiner benches and a few planers.

for Ronald L. Moeller, Capt.
SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN
Lt Col, USAF
Commander
7052 AISS

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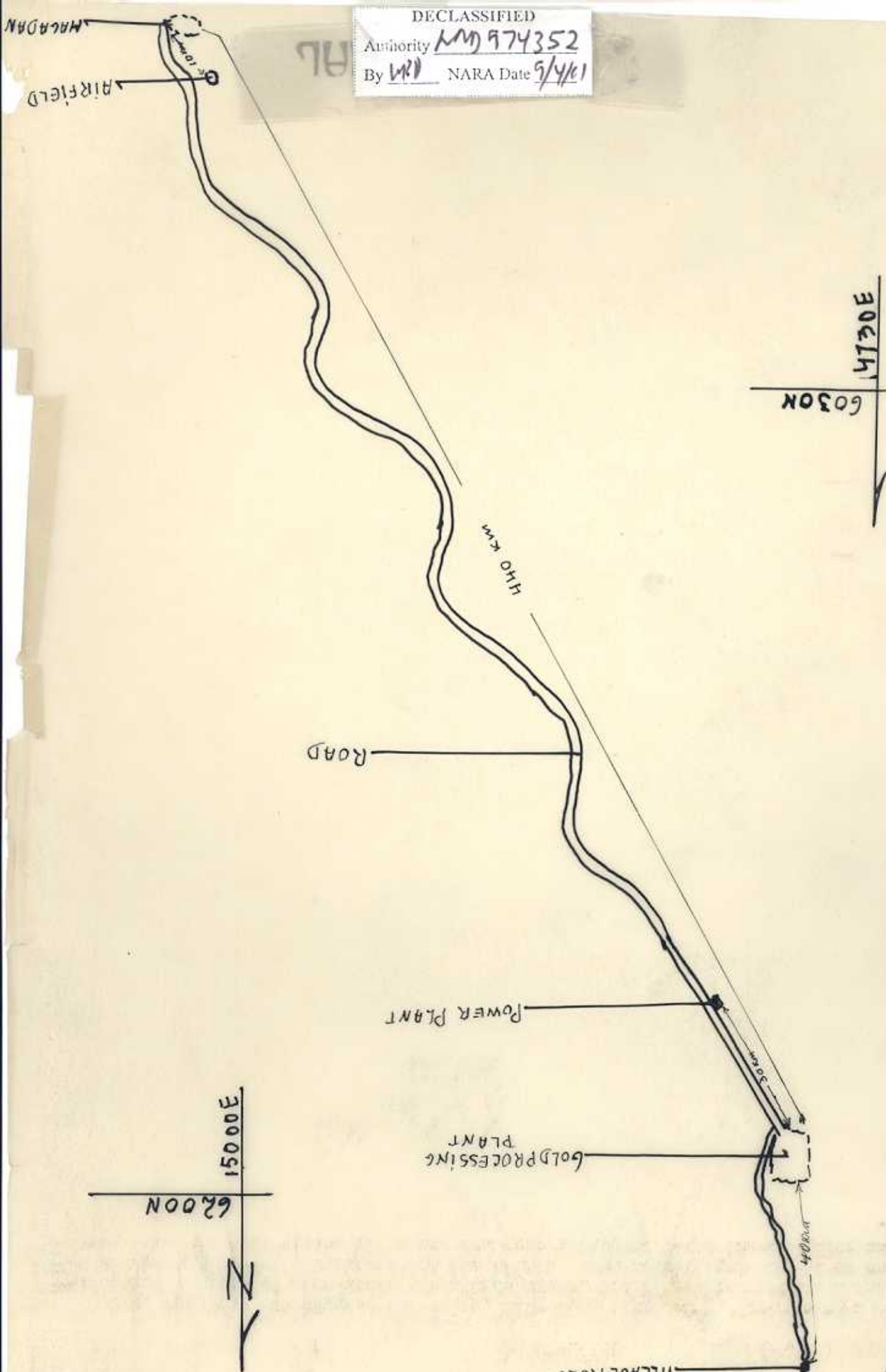
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